

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-19 are pending in this Application. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 18 to define the claimed invention more particularly, to define a new patentable claim, and to raise a new issue for the Examiner's consideration, thereby precluding a First Action Final Rejection. No new matter is added.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection, Applicants have amended the specification in a manner believed fully responsive to the Examiner's concerns.

More specifically, Applicants note that in lines 24-28 on page 10 of the originally filed U.S. specification of the present Application, there were two sentences: "[t]he elongation process that shortens the diameter of the glass base material is performed by keeping the mentioned state" and "[h]owever, except during a first phase of heating where the movable headstock is not moved, it is not necessary to hold a midway part of the glass base material 1 because tensile stress is exerted in the lateral direction and so the possibility that the glass base material 1 hangs down is low."

However, in the corresponding Japanese Application No. 2004-089614, which is incorporated by reference in the U.S. Application, and in the corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/003923 (written in Japanese), the corresponding part is described in one sentence (first sentence in paragraph [0031] of the Japanese Application and first sentence in paragraph [0034] of the PCT Application).

Accordingly, it is clear that this sentence in the Japanese Application and the PCT Application refers to the elongation process, and therefore the first phase of heating is a part of the elongation process.

Therefore, Applicants submit that a person skilled in the art would have recognized that the first phase of heating is a part of the elongation process, and further would have recognized the disclosure of moving the holding device aside to a vicinity of the chuck in the

elongation process and not during the first phase of heating (e.g., just after the first phase of heating) based on page 10, lines 24-34 of the specification.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Moreover, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection, the Examiner alleges that the holding device 1100 in Kim et al. (WO 2004/009501 as represented by US 2005/0016216, hereinafter "Kim") is moved from left to right during heating. However, Kim merely discloses that the holding device 1100 is moved to the predetermined supporting location where the supporting location control sensor 900 is disposed (paragraphs [0045]-[0046]) and that the supporting location control sensor 900 is fixed at the supporting location predetermined on the lathe or located at a predetermined distance from the lathe (paragraph [0033]).

Kim, however, fails to teach or disclose that the holding device 1100 or the supporting location control sensor 900 is moved from left to right during heating.

Further, Kim fails to teach or suggest moving the holding device "*aside*" to the vicinity of the chuck (i.e., withdraw the holding device to the vicinity of the chuck) so as not to hold a midway part of the glass material, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the alleged combination of the references fails to teach or suggest claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants note that support for amendments to claim 1 can be found at least on page 10, lines 7-11 and 24-34 of the specification of the present Application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 12, and 15-19, all the claims presently under examination, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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Docket No. SH-0068PCTUS
RYU.033

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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